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International drug control

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is structured thematically along the lines of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, on 23 February 1990.[1] Each section contains a general overview of approaches and policies developed by States individually or in cooperation with other States at the bilateral, regional and international levels and with international organizations. Concrete examples of programmes and measures implemented at the national level have also been included. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/168 of 23 December 1994 and 50/148 of 21 December 1995, the report contains an evaluation of progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and recommendations on ways and means of improving implementation.

2. To facilitate reporting, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 4 (XXXVII), requested the Secretariat to send a questionnaire to all Governments soliciting information on activities undertaken to implement the Global Programme of Action. As at 31 July 1997, replies had been received from 62 States and 1 territory. In view of the level of response, information submitted by States has been complemented by information from other official sources.

A. Action taken by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

3. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fortieth session and the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 adopted resolutions that have a bearing on the themes of the Global Programme of Action. The resolutions adopted by the Council deal, in particular, with the following: review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) (Council resolution 1997/37 of 21 July 1997); demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs (Council resolution 1997/38 of 21 July 1997); the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (Council resolution 1997/39 of 21 July 1997); contribution to the strengthening of the Global Programme of Action: anti-drug strategy in the Americas (Council resolution 1997/40 of 21 July 1997); and implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (Council resolution 1997/41 of 21 July 1997). The five resolutions adopted by the Commission also address relevant issues such as the following: cooperation in drug control between the Zone of Peace and Cooperation in the South Atlantic and UNDCP (Commission resolution 1 (XL)); development and implementation of domestic legislation to strengthen justice systems and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 relating to law enforcement and judicial cooperation (Commission resolution 2 (XL));availability of opiates for medical needs (Commission resolution 3 (XL)); the pilot maritime drug law enforcement project of UNDCP (Commission resolution 4 (XL)); and the analysis of regional and global demand reduction strategies (Commission resolution 5 (XL)).

B. Evaluation of progress made and recommendations to improve implementation

4. In the current reporting year, an increasing number of Governments have made improvements in the quality of their demand reduction programmes, focusing on a number of practical measures such as the development of master plans, as well as national policies and programmes of action including demand reduction. Member States should devote more resources to support various aspects of demand reduction where such measures have not yet been introduced. Member States should also seek bilateral and international assistance to complement their national efforts in that endeavour.

5. High priority should be given to early prevention measures. Governments should design comprehensive programmes and sustainable national demand reduction strategies that encompass prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation programmes and should allocate sufficient resources for their implementation. The programmes should promote a multisectoral and intersectoral approach as an integral part of national development planning, with particular emphasis on the protection of the young.

6. Treatment for drug abusers has been provided by many Governments, but few have provided training for personnel employed in treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. More efforts need to be made in treatment beyond detoxification. Improved linkage between Government and the private sector is also necessary to strengthen programmes of rehabilitation and social

reintegration. The need for guidelines on treatment, training and the development of programmes of rehabilitation and social reintegration has been identified by a number of Governments. Governments should provide alternatives to treatment and avenues for drug offenders other than imprisonment.

7. International criminal activities associated with illicit drug trafficking, such as the arms trade, trafficking in persons and terrorist acts, not only threaten populations but also destabilize institutions and undermine law and order. Facilitated by technology, especially in transport and communications, and by a more open international business environment, illicit drug operations have yielded enormous profits, as well as great power and influence, which have enabled them to infiltrate virtually every segment of society. Governments may wish to emphasize in future reports their efforts to identify new modalities for securing close cooperation, coordination, mutual legal assistance and joint operations. They could also improve the interaction of various types of law enforcement agencies involved in the suppression of illicit traffic, such as marine, air and border patrols, police and customs, immigration and postal services.

8. Despite the efforts of drug law enforcement agencies, substantial amounts of smuggled drugs have continued to escape detection. While unprecedented numbers and quantities of seizures have been made recently, they represent only a fraction of the actual amount of drugs being trafficked throughout the world. They might be indicative of either more rigorous and vigilant enforcement or increased trafficking. In that connection, the exchange of information both within and between regions is vital to ensure broader cooperation in the suppression of illicit drug trafficking. Regular contact between operational counterparts, as well as advanced communication and information systems and networks, need to be vigorously promoted and sustained.

9. Governments have not reported in sufficient detail their efforts to develop and intensify various forms of cooperation in law enforcement and mutual legal assistance. Priority should be accorded by the international community to ensuring the reliable, expeditious and secure flow of information for operational and intelligence purposes. That would enhance the capacity of communication and information systems to fortify borders and internal controls against the flow of the drug traffic. Modern information technology has revolutionized the process of communication and should therefore be incorporated as a basic tool of day-to-day law enforcement operations.

10. In the four years that have passed since the introduction of a simplified questionnaire for the submission of national reports, only 26 States and 1 territory have reported to UNDCP on a regular basis: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, India, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela; and Cook Islands. A further 36 States have reported sporadically, and some major players on the international scene have failed to report. To enable the commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly to monitor and analyse in depth government efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action, there is a need for more Governments to submit replies to the questionnaire conscientiously and promptly, so that the Secretary-General, in his annual report, can effectively contribute to the evaluation of the progress made.

II. Prevention and reduction of drug abuse with a view to the elimination of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

11. More States reported the adoption of national policies and strategies for drug control in 1996 than in 1995. Several States lacking such policies and strategies have indicated that progress has been made in developing master plans and national policies and programmes of action in drug control. Drug abuse has been recognized as having both social causes and social costs. To support efforts aimed at prevention, UNDCP has continued to collaborate with Member States in developing a declaration on the principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs, to be considered for adoption at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held from 8 to 10 June 1998.

12. Most Governments have reported having prevention programmes involving the following: the launching of public awareness campaigns using multimedia approaches, including the distribution of videos to television networks; the use of newspaper and radio advertising to promote prevention; the distribution of posters, pamphlets and leaflets; and the organization of rallies, talks, seminars and lectures in urban areas. In several countries, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed annually on 26 June, is used as an opportunity for raising

public awareness, mostly through activities involving local communities and non-governmental organizations.

13. Many Governments have provided support for the development of training materials and the training of schoolteachers, parents, religious leaders, prevention educators, counsellors and police officers. There has been coordination among ministries of health, education, social welfare, voluntary agencies and non-governmental organizations. The majority of the preventive efforts have targeted youth.

14. The next most common form of prevention is preventive education in schools. In most States, preventive education is included in the curricula or in mandatory courses of secondary schools and, in some cases, in primary schools and in universities. Training for recreation leaders, preventive education at youth health clubs and leisure activities for youth are sometimes provided. Few States offer prevention programmes in non-formal educational settings or for street children and school drop-outs.

15. Preventive efforts specifically designed for pregnant women have been reported by only one Government. Few Governments have reported linking prevention of drug abuse with prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus(HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Innovative approaches to prevention have been reported, including the use of telephone helplines, young ambassadors for drug prevention, Internet services for youth, and discotheques where education on the prevention of drug abuse is provided. A few Governments have reported on measures to prevent drug abuse in the workplace, and one has referred to preventive measures by independent groups in the entertainment industry.

16. In some States, studies have been conducted to monitor the trends in, the patterns and prevalence of and the health problems related to drug abuse, and surveys have been carried out on drug abuse and high-risk sexual behaviour among students. In 1996, UNDCP continued to assist States in Africa, Asia and Latin America in conducting rapid assessment surveys of the situation with regard to drug abuse and of the services available to drug abusers.

III. Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts

17. Several Governments have reported having a national policy on the treatment of drug abuse or guidelines and standards for treatment. In States where treatment services for drug abuse are available, they come under the aegis of the ministries of health, social welfare or social security. In most States, however, the available treatment services are insufficient. Some are striving to expand their facilities, whereas others may lack treatment facilities altogether.

18. Most available treatment services are supported by Governments. In some States, private entities and non-governmental organizations also provide treatment of varying quality. Free treatment is available in some States, especially where there is compulsory hospitalization. Most treatment entails detoxification, but a few Governments have reported practising abrupt withdrawal from addictive drugs, albeit usually with high relapse rates. Methadone, naltrexone and clonidine substitutes are available in some States. In others, yoga exercises and indigenous medicines are used in the post-detoxification phase.

19. Less available are counselling services, such as outreach activities that provide injecting drug abusers with counselling on HIV prevention, and needle exchange services. Some Governments offer offenders who abuse drugs the option of treatment and social rehabilitation rather than imprisonment. A few Governments report providing treatment for prisoners. In some States, habitual offenders are given training and work experience. One Government reported providing shelter and outreach to sex workers who were drug abusers.

20. Services for the treatment of drug abuse are usually located in special units within a general hospital or a mental health or psychiatric hospital, and some States have specialized hospitals, out-patient clinics and day-service facilities. Therapeutic communities are available in some States.

21. Several Governments have reported the lack of equipment, facilities, medicines and trained professionals and have mentioned general resource constraints in dealing with treatment. There is a general need for models of good practice, improved standards of treatment and training and updated clinical guidelines.

22. Services for rehabilitation and social reintegration, though less available than in-patient treatment, are increasingly being provided by Governments and non-governmental organizations. Most Governments, as well as non-governmental and community organizations, have reported community-based post-treatment services involving job rehabilitation, training in vocational skills, leisure activities, outreach and drop-in centres, financial support for reintegration of low-income people, assistance in securing employment after treatment and the reintegration into families. In general, however, few (if any) social reintegration programmes are offered.

IV. Control of supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

A. Eradication and substitution of the illicit production of narcotic drugs; eradication of the illicit processing of narcotic drugs; and eradication of the illicit production and diversion of psychotropic substances

23. Several Governments have reported efforts to eradicate the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants, and countries in which such illicit cultivation remains a problem have sought international assistance through bilateral or multilateral agreements to implement alternative development programmes. Despite eradication efforts, many countries remain affected by such illicit cultivation.

24. Law enforcement authorities in a number of States in all regions have seized clandestine laboratories in which amphetamines and other substances were being illicitly manufactured. Such manufacture remains a serious problem in many developed countries, as well as in some developing countries that have reached a certain level of technological advancement.

25. Some Governments have reported adopting strategies of rural or alternative development to combat the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants. Those strategies entail the cultivation of economically viable crops and are, in most cases, supported by measures to improve transport and communication infrastructure, social services and activities to develop agricultural marketing opportunities.

26. The role of UNDCP in alternative development has diversified to include involvement in model programmes of technical assistance and support for efforts to strengthen the technical capacity of institutions responsible for coordinating national alternative development plans. Such an approach builds on a process of taking stock of and documenting experiences and lessons learned in the preparation of a guide on alternative development.

27. A project on the control of precursors in south and south-west Asia, launched in January 1996, was designed to assist States in those areas in developing and strengthening national systems for the control of precursors in order to prevent diversions from the licit trade, thereby reducing the manufacture of illicit drugs derived from illicit cultivation in those areas. Recent developments in the projects being carried out in the Dir District of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan and in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon testify to the progress being made in the eradication of illicit cultivation in problem areas.

B. Licit production, manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

28. To maintain a balance between the supply of and demand for narcotic drugs, Governments provide the international Narcotics Control Board with annual estimates of the amount of narcotics required by Member States for medical use and research purposes. In 1996, global production of opiate raw materials was 255 tonnes in morphine equivalent, considerably less than the 291 tonnes originally projected for that year. The shortfall was mainly the result of a sharp decrease in the poppy straw harvesting area in Turkey in 1996.

29. According to statistical data provided to the Board by the major producing countries, global production of opiate raw materials in 1996 will probably exceed consumption of opiates by 14.5 tonnes in morphine equivalent. In 1997, production is expected to exceed total consumption by 80-90 tonnes in morphine equivalent, in view of the projected increase in all major producing countries.

30. The Board continued its practice of organizing informal meetings with representatives of major producers and importers of opiate raw materials during the fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Participants discussed the most feasible approach to achieving a lasting balance between supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes.

C. Cooperation at the multilateral level

31. Several Governments reported the provision of financial and technical assistance to other States through UNDCP, in the context of multilateral cooperation, or the conclusion of arrangements and agreements at the bilateral level. Subregional strategies and memoranda of understanding have been developed or adopted in various parts of the world, but at a pace and in forms that vary subject to the specific problems and conditions prevailing in each region or subregion.

32. UNDCP and the World Health Organization have developed a global initiative on primary prevention of drug abuse. UNDCP is launching a youth project to promote innovative approaches to dealing with young people and substance abuse and to encourage the networking of youth

programmes around the world. The Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDCP are jointly sponsoring a programme for the training of youth leaders in the use of video as a tool for preventive education designed for children in difficult circumstances. UNDCP and UNICEF are also collaborating in a project that focuses on children in crisis situations. UNDCP and the International Labour organization (ILO) will launch a third conference involving the participation of representatives from the private sector in order to strengthen the partnership that includes business communities, unions and non-governmental organizations in dealing with drug issues in the workplace.

33. Various activities conducted at the regional level, illustrating the type and extent of cooperation undertaken during 1996 and the first part of 1997, are summarized below.

1. Africa

34. In the context of promoting multilateral subregional strategies and as follow-up to a protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the States members of the Southern African Development Community(SADC), adopted by SADC in 1995 and ratified in 1996, UNDCP, through a process of continuous consultation with the secretariat of SADC, has pursued avenues for the implementation of the plan of action related to the protocol. In that connection, UNDCP and the European Commission undertook a joint mission to the SADC secretariat at Gaborone in May 1997. The mission resulted in an agreement to hold expert group meetings on various topics of concern, including legislation, which was identified as an area of central importance.

35. UNDCP has prepared a technical cooperation project designed to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity to coordinate and ensure the timely implementation of its plan of action for drug control.

2. Asia and the Pacific

36. As follow-up to a memorandum of understanding concluded between the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and UNDCP, a regional workshop was held at the policy level in Sri Lanka in May 1996.The workshop produced a brief outline of a subregional strategy and identified areas of cooperation in drug law enforcement, including legislation relating to drug control, and demand reduction.

37. Since the adoption in 1995 of the South-east Asia Subregional Action Plan by signatories to a memorandum of understanding concluded by Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNDCP, progress has been made in the formulation and implementation of a subregional strategy. At a meeting held at Yangon in May 1996, senior officials from the six States parties to the memorandum of understanding reviewed its achievements and agreed on the first two projects to be carried out under the Subregional Action Plan: one on precursor control and the other on demand reduction in highland communities. From 1996 to mid-1997, other projects were formulated within the framework of the Subregional Action Plan. Several projects were approved, including projects for the development of operational procedures for drug control, upgrading the capacity to gather and exchange information, the improvement of training in drug law enforcement and the promotion of demand reduction; in some cases, implementation has already begun.

3. Europe and the Middle East

38. Inter-agency cooperation involving ILO, the European Commission and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe concentrated on assistance in the reduction of demand in central and eastern Europe. UNDCP focused many of its activities on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Caucasus and the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

39. A joint seminar entitled "Drugs and Crime: New Challenges" was organized by UNDCP, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at Bishkek in June 1996, with the participation of the CIS member States in central Asia.

40. As a follow-up of the memorandum of understanding concluded in May 1996 under the aegis of UNDCP between the CIS member States in central Asia, UNDCP launched a large-scale subregional project in May 1997 to strengthen law enforcement capacities in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as cross-border cooperation between those States and the Russian Federal Border Guard Service. A further subregional project was also launched in 1997 to promote cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in mapping and monitoring the extent of cultivation of illicit opium poppy.

41. A regional forum on reduction of demand in the Middle East was organized by UNDCP at Abu Dhabi in March 1997, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates.

42. In the context of promoting regional cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO),UNDCP

provided assistance in the creation of a mechanism within ECO for the coordination of drug control and in the training of national coordinators from all ECO member States under a new UNDCP regional project scheduled to start in the second half of 1997.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

43. In 1996, UNDCP promoted and negotiated a memorandum of understanding on subregional cooperation in drug control between Mexico and the Central American States of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The memorandum of understanding provides for cross-border cooperation in all aspects of drug control, and activities were planned to promote harmonization of legislation and training in law enforcement, in demand reduction and in the prevention of drug abuse.

44. At the regional level, an anti-drug strategy for the western hemisphere was approved and signed at Montevideo in December 1996 by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States at its twentieth regular session. The anti-drug strategy was designed to provide a comprehensive and balanced approach to action aimed at reducing both demand and supply on a global and multidisciplinary basis. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/40, urged the international community to take due account of the anti-drug strategy as a significant contribution to the strengthening of the Global Programme of Action.

D. Monitoring and control mechanisms

45. Many Governments have developed systems for monitoring trade in and the movement of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. Those systems are used in cooperation with manufacturers of such substances or others who alert them to any suspicious movement or transaction involving such substances. Specialized units, usually within law enforcement agencies, collect and analyse data and undertake regular or ad hoc inspections of the premises of operators to ensure that no manufacture of illicit drugs takes place. Regional or international agreements on the control of precursors have also recently been developed. In addition, the European Community has concluded cooperation agreements with several States outside the region to prevent diversion of chemicals, material and equipment frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

46. As a result of cooperation between Member States and the International Narcotics Control Board, the diversion of at least 16 tonnes of ephedrine was prevented in 1996. That amount of ephedrine would have enabled traffickers to illicitly manufacture more than 10 tonnes of methamphetamine. One State alone prevented the diversion of more than 300 tonnes of acetic anhydride, an amount that might have been used for the illicit manufacture of approximately 120 tonnes of heroine. As for chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine, shipments of such chemicals totalling nearly 1,800 tonnes were stopped because of suspicious circumstances or irregularities.

V. Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

47. A number of Governments have reported the conclusion of bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or other arrangements to enhance coordination between their law enforcement agencies in operations aimed at suppressing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including the provision of mutual legal assistance, technical equipment and training in modern techniques. Many Governments have reported memoranda of understanding concluded between their customs authorities and air, maritime and land transport organizations.

48. Several Governments have noted the importance of personal contacts established at international meetings dealing with law enforcement issues, such as meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and sessions of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. The identification at such meetings of urgent issues facing law enforcement agencies in the fight against illicit drug trafficking in the regions concerned has led to the adoption of effective countermeasures, such as the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors. Many Governments have emphasized the paramount importance of regional meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which coordinate the efforts of developing countries in drug law enforcement and provide the only means of establishing and strengthening the mutual trust and confidence that are essential, in view of the limited resources of the countries concerned, to effective cooperation in and coordination of drug law enforcement operations at the

regional level. Several Governments have emphasized the need for drug law enforcement agencies to improve cooperation with their counterparts in transit and producer States.

49. Since the number of analytical laboratories providing scientific evidence in court cases is increasing, international standards requiring high levels of precision should be applied to the reported laboratory findings. Governments have therefore emphasized the need to provide laboratories with the means of assessing the accuracy of their findings. The international quality assurance programme, carried out under the auspices of UNDCP, provides Member States with the necessary tools to assist their national drug-testing laboratories in meeting international standards.

50. Their continued efforts to dismantle clandestine laboratories engaged in the illegal manufacture of substances under international control have led Governments to seek the advice and assistance of UNDCP in order to strengthen their capacity for intelligence-gathering. In collaboration with laboratories in many countries, UNDCP is coordinating and conducting applied research into the essential process of analysing impurities in seized material and the potential use of the findings for comparative and intelligence purposes.

51. In view of the sustained rise in the manufacture, availability and abuse of illicit synthetic drugs worldwide, Governments have in recent years actively pursued efforts to address the problem and to develop countermeasures aimed at containing it. In that connection, UNDCP organized two expert meetings on amphetamine-type stimulants, the first held at Vienna from 12 to 16 February 1996 and the second held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/6). The policies and countermeasures recommended by those meetings have subsequently been endorsed by the Commission and will be considered by the General Assembly at its special session on drug control to be held in 1998.

VI. Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system

52. Several Governments reported the adoption, in 1996, of the legislative and administrative measures required to give effect to the provisions of articles 3 and 5 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[2] as well as to comply with the Council of the European Communities directive of 10 June 1991 on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money-laundering. Some Governments were in the process of drafting, enacting or amending legislation to make money-laundering a criminal offence and to provide for the confiscation of the proceeds derived from illicit drug trafficking.

53. Cooperation with banks and other financial institutions in the detection of illicit transactions and transfers of assets derived from drug-related activities has been recognized as being of paramount importance. Some governments have adopted measures to ensure that deposits, transfers and withdrawals above a certain amount are brought to the attention of the competent authorities. Reports of such transactions or other activities attracting the suspicion of financial institutions are then used to support investigations, prosecution and confiscation. Irrespective of whether such reporting systems are voluntary or mandatory, failure to report suspicious transactions carries penalties. Financial institutions that participate in money-laundering, even out of negligence, are often subject to punishment.

54. In spite of these measures, the money-laundering industry continues to seek new and more sophisticated techniques to avoid detection. Criminals are making increasing use of corrupt lawyers, financial specialists and other experts who are sufficiently knowledgeable in the mechanisms and dynamics of financial markets to exploit available loopholes in legal and regulatory defences against money-laundering. A further challenge to effective enforcement and regulatory procedures to counter money-laundering is posed by the growth of payment facilities, based on high technology, that enable global financial transactions to be made by coded electronic means. States must be made aware of the impact of such technology on existing regulatory frameworks and of the misuse of international data networks such as the Internet.

55. In October 1996, UNDCP, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, initiated a Global Programme against Money Laundering, designed to assist States in establishing the necessary legal basis to counter money-laundering; to provide assistance to the judicial, financial and law enforcement systems in institution-building and in the training of personnel; to prepare a compendium of relevant national legislation and procedures; and to develop computer databases and training materials of a general nature.

56. In November 1996, in the context of promoting bilateral and regional cooperation, the prime ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania signed at Riga a declaration on the fight against money-laundering, drawn up in cooperation with UNDCP, the European Commission and the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission. The declaration provides for a set of administrative procedures to be undertaken by the parties to prevent money-laundering at the national, regional and international levels.

VII. Strengthening of judicial and legal systems, including law enforcement

57. In 1996, 8 States became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] 7 became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] and 18 became parties to the 1988 Convention. States have continued to make progress in enacting the necessary legislative and administrative measures to give effect to the conventions. States that have not yet become parties to the conventions have adopted appropriate measures to comply with their provisions while completing the comprehensive legislation required for ratification or accession. As at 31 July 1997, 160 States were parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[5] or to that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, 151 were parties to the 1971 Convention and 141 were parties to the 1988 Convention.

58. While the majority of Governments have established basic legal and administrative frameworks within which treaties can operate, legislation on issues such as money-laundering or mutual legal assistance is often not yet in place. Therefore, the high level of adherence does not fully reflect the extent to which treaties have been implemented.

59. Some Governments have reported concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance that would complement and expand the obligations of parties to the 1988 Convention under article 7 of the convention, thus offering more possibilities for mutual legal assistance in judicial proceedings, as well as agreements that would facilitate transfer in extradition proceedings concerning drug-related offences.

60. Several Governments have reported implementing activities to strengthen the judiciary through various measures such as specialized training programmes in drug law enforcement, the use of modern law enforcement techniques and the deployment of dogs trained to sniff out drugs, in order to monitor all goods, personal effects and passenger luggage in major airports.

61. The States members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf have developed a draft unified criminal law, based on the principles of Islamic law, providing social security for all, harmonizing investigative and evidence-gathering procedures and promoting improved cross-border cooperation.

VIII. Measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking by vessels, aircraft and vehicles

62. A number of Governments have reported having strict legislative measures in place to control the import and export of weapons and explosives, thereby preventing their diversion into illicit markets, while others, to achieve the same end, have begun to strengthen measures to control and monitor the trade in firearms, ammunition and explosives.

63. To ensure that the means of transport operated by commercial carriers are not used for illicit drug trafficking, a few Governments have taken appropriate steps in accordance with the provisions of article 15 of the 1988 Convention, including the conclusion of memoranda of understanding with organizations and airline and shipping companies in order to prevent illegal access to and use of aircraft, vessels and vehicles.

64. To counteract the illicit traffic by sea, Governments have supplemented the control systems applied by law enforcement officials at points of entry by other official measures, such as regular coastline surveillance operations to achieve more complete coverage of coastal waters.

IX. United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, covering the years 1991-2000

65. In accordance with General Assembly resolution S-17/2, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, UNDCP has developed and disseminated information tools such as leaflets, pamphlets, brochures, travelling exhibits, posters and films. In addition to those regular

activities, UNDCP has continued to nurture a culture of opposition to drug abuse by embarking upon various initiatives aimed at civil society, as described below.

66. On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, special messages by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by the Executive Director of UNDCP were disseminated. Many special events have been carried out at the national level, with the involvement of government ministries and non-governmental organizations.

67. Non-governmental organizations have continued to play an important role in the activities of the Decade. In 1996, a non-governmental organization based in Tokyo was able to make an additional donation of 500,000 United States dollars to UNDCP as a result of nationwide drug control campaigns designed to prevent drug abuse and to raise funds. A third conference on drugs in the workplace and the community, for the region of Asia and the Pacific, will be held at Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 6 October 1997, in collaboration with ILO, the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse and the National Association for the Prevention of Dadah (prohibited substances) of Malaysia. The purpose of the conference is to establish a closer interaction between representatives of the business world and other segments of civil society.

X. Resources and structure

68. The budget of UNDCP comprises two separate and complementary parts: the regular budget approved by the General Assembly; and the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, approved by the Commission. The Fund, established in 1991 by the General Assembly, is under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of UNDCP and is supported from extrabudgetary resources.

69. The total revised budget of UNDCP for the biennium 1996-1997 amounts to $157.7 million, of which $141.2 million, or 89.5 per cent, is funded from voluntary contributions under the Fund and $16.5 million, or 10.5 per cent, is from the regular budget of the United Nations. The total income of the Fund for the biennium 1996-1997 is estimated at $130.8 million, resulting in an expected shortfall of income over expenditure of $10.4 million. The amount of $16.5 million financed from the regular budget of the United Nations reflects a decrease of nearly $1 million following the overall budget reductions mandated for the United Nations by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995.

70. The regular budget of UNDCP mainly finances treaty implementation and legal affairs at UNDCP headquarters. Of the resources of the Fund, $109.1 million, or 77.3 per cent, are for project activities carried out mainly in developing countries to enhance their ability to comply with treaty obligations and to cope with problems related to illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. The remaining $32.1 million, or 22.7 per cent of the resources of the Fund, cover the costs of the network of field offices and a share of headquarters expenses. The main share of voluntary funds, namely $109.1 million, is utilized to fund approximately 250 projects implemented in over 50 countries. The largest share of spending is in Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, and Africa.

Notes

[1] See General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.